CLAIMS:

1.   A method of rating database objects, comprising a step of categorizing the objects into a plurality of categories, and a step of rating at least one of said categories, characterized in that the method further comprises a step of arranging the categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and a step of computing a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

2.   A method as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

3.   A method as defined as defined in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the method further comprises a step of visually representing a rating by means of a color.

4.   A method as defined in claim 3, characterized in that a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.

5.   A method as defined in claim 4, characterized in that said parameter is the saturation of said color.

6.   A method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the objects are programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level are genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

7.   An apparatus for processing database objects, said objects being categorized into a plurality of categories, the apparatus comprising user profile means for rating at least one of said categories, characterized in that the user profile means are further adapted to

arrange said categories in accordance with a multi-level category scheme with a first level of categories and a second level of categories subordinate to a respective category of the first level, and to compute a rating of a category of the first level as a function of ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

8.   An apparatus as defined in claim 7, characterized in that the rating of the category of the first level is computed as the average of the ratings of subordinate categories of the second level.

9.   An apparatus as defined in claim 7 or 8, characterized in that the apparatus further comprises a display screen and the user profile means are adapted to visually represent a rating by means of a color.

10.   An apparatus as defined in claim 9, characterized in that a plurality of ratings is represented by means of a single color, a parameter of said color corresponding to a respective one of said plurality of ratings.

11.   An apparatus as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said parameter is the saturation of said color.

12.   A broadcast receiver as an apparatus as defined in any one of claims 7 to 11, said objects being programs in an electronic program guide (EPG) database, and the categories of the first and second level being genres and sub-genres of said programs, respectively.

13.   A computer program product for performing, when executed on a programmable computing device, the steps of the method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6.